In The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A ~~Method~~ method for the transmission of information via an optical data transmission line, ~~the ends~~ at least one end of which ~~are~~ being ~~formed in each case by an~~ provided with an optoelectronic interface having a transmitter side and a receiver side, a light source which can be modulated to carry information through a light signal by data transmission~~, such as e.g. a laser,~~ being provided transmitter side, and a light-sensitive receive element, for converting light to an electrical signal that varies with intensity of light received by the receive element~~, such as e.g. a photodiode,~~ being provided receiver side, said method comprising:

amplifying and processing ~~and the~~ a signal~~, varying according to the received light intensity,~~ at ~~the~~ an output of the receive element; ~~being amplified and processed,~~

monitoring and recording signal intensity of ~~and the~~ light received by the receive element ~~being recorded~~ independently of ~~the~~ current strength of the ~~modulated~~ electrical signal to obtain a signal monitoring output;

displaying the recorded signal ~~as such and displayed~~ at a signal monitoring ~~output~~ device to show the presence or ~~otherwise~~ absence of a data signal;

lowering intensity of light ~~, characterized in that,~~ at the transmitter side~~, the emitted light quantity is lowered~~ so far below ~~the~~ a minimum threshold value of ~~the~~ signal amplitude used for the data transmission that the signal monitoring output at the receive-side end records and displays a missing input signal of the light receive element; ~~,~~

again raising ~~and the~~ emitted light intensity ~~quantity is then raised~~ above the threshold value ~~again,~~ ;

and repeatedly the lowering and raising of the light intensity ~~energy occurring~~ in ~~a predetermined, relatively slow,~~ time cycle in encoded form to provide an encoded signal monitoring output ~~,~~ ; and

evaluating the encoded signal monitoring output by a corresponding evaluation logic.

2. (currently amended) A ~~Method~~ method according to claim 1, wherein a laser ~~being~~ is provided as transmit element to provide a laser signal and a photodiode is provided as a receive element, ~~characterized in that~~ and ~~the~~ a laser supply voltage signal is switched on and off by ~~the~~ drive electronics of the ~~transmit~~ laser ~~via~~ using a "Laser Enable" signal.

3.(currently amended) A ~~Method~~ method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the laser supply voltage is switched on and off in encoded form.

4.(currently amended) A ~~Method~~ according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3, characterized in that~~ wherein the evaluation logic is implemented by software.

5.(currently amended) A ~~Method~~ according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ claim 1 wherein the evaluation takes place in a separate microprocessor independent of the evaluation of the normal data signal.

6. (currently amended) A ~~Method~~ according to claim 1 wherein signal monitoring output provides data in the form of data words and a start bit is transmitted at the beginning of a transmitted data word and a stop bit at the end of the data word.

7. (currently amended) A ~~Method~~ according to claim 6 ~~5, characterized in that the~~ wherein format specification of the data words corresponds to an RS 232 interface.

8. (currently amended) A ~~Device~~ device for the transmission of information via an optical data transmission line having a transmission end and a receiving end, said device comprising: ~~with, in each case,~~ an optoelectronic interface comprising a transmitter side at the transmission

end and a receiver side at the receiver end ~~at the ends of the data transmission line laid remote from each other,~~ the interface having a light transmitter~~, in particular a laser,~~ at the transmitter side, and electronics which ~~have a modulation of the~~ modulate transmitted light corresponding to a data signal to be transmitted to obtain a modulated input signal~~, and, receive side,~~ and having a light-sensitive receive element at the receiver side, ~~the~~ an output signal of which is modulated analogously to the modulated input signal to obtain a modulated receive signal, a monitoring device being additionally provided at the receiver side which, independently of the modulation of the receive signal, monitors and records the presence or ~~otherwise~~ absence of ~~an~~ transmitted input signal as a signal monitoring output and displays it at a signal monitoring ~~output~~ device, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, transmitter side, devices are provided for ~~the alternative,~~ clock-pulse-controlled lowering and raising of intensity of ~~the~~ transmitted light energy, the intensity of the ~~transmit~~ transmitted light energy in the lowered state being ~~lowered~~ below a threshold value at which the ~~receiver-side signal~~ monitoring device ~~side~~ records the presence of a data transmission signal and the intensity of the light energy in a raised state being above a threshold value at which the monitoring device records the presence of a data transmission signal to obtain an encoded output signal encoded in correspondence with the lowering and raising of intensity of transmitted light energy, and an evaluation device being provided for the evaluation of the output signal encoded corresponding to the raising and lowering of the transmission signal.

9. (currently amended) A device ~~Device~~ according to claim 8~~, characterized in that~~ wherein a laser is provided as a light transmission device.

10. (currently amended) A device ~~Device~~ according to claim 9~~, characterized in that~~ wherein a separate microprocessor is provided for the evaluation of the encoded signal monitoring signal.

11. (currently amended) A device ~~Device~~ according to claim 10~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the evaluation logic is implemented by software.

12. (currently amended) A device ~~Device~~ according to ~~one of claims 8 to 11~~ claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein clock-pulse-controllable drive electronics for a laser are provided as a device for raising and lowering the light energy.

13. (currently amended) A device ~~Device~~ according to ~~one of claims 8 to 12~~ claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a device is provided for the clock-pulse-controlled switching on and off of ~~the~~ laser supply voltage.

14. (new) A device according to claim 10 wherein clock-pulse-controllable drive electronics for a laser are provided as a device for raising and lowering the light energy.

15. (new) A device according to claim 14 wherein a device is provided for the clock-pulse-controlled switching on and off of ~~the~~ laser supply voltage.

16. (new) A device according to claim 11 wherein clock-pulse-controllable drive electronics for a laser are provided as a device for raising and lowering the light energy.

17. (new) A device according to claim 16 wherein a device is provided for the clock-pulse-controlled switching on and off of ~~the~~ laser supply voltage.

18. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the receive element comprises a photodiode.

19. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the light transmitter comprises a laser.

20. (new) The method of claim 19 wherein the laser is driven by a laser supply voltage that is switched off and on in encoded form.

Respectfully submitted,

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